

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
**Division of Housing Policy Development**

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January 13, 2005

Mr. Wiley Buck, City Manager  
City of Blue Lake  
111 Greenwood Road  
Blue Lake, CA 95525

Dear Mr. Buck:

**RE: Review of the City of Blue Lake's Adopted Housing Element**

Thank you for submitting Blue Lake's housing element adopted June 22, 2004 and received for review on December 27, 2004. The Department is required to review adopted housing elements and report the findings to the locality pursuant to Government Code Section 65585(h).

As you know, the Department's June 3, 2004 review found the City of Blue Lake's housing element addressed the statutory requirements of housing element law. As the adopted element is substantially the same as the revised housing element, the Department is pleased to find the adopted element in compliance with State housing element law (Article 10.6 of the Government Code).

The Department appreciates Blue Lake's efforts in addressing housing needs, including a variety of realistic strategies maximizing land resources and promoting a variety of housing types. The City's specific commitments to rezone for higher density, amend zoning for mixed-use and to encourage the development of housing for persons with disabilities, establish by-right approval for multifamily uses in multifamily zones, and support the efficient expansion of public facilities are commendable.

The Department wishes Blue Lake success in implementing its housing element and land-use programs and looks forward to following the City's progress through the annual general plan reports pursuant to Government Code Section 65400. Also, for your information, recently enacted legislation (Chapter 706, Statutes of 2002 and Chapter 10, Statutes of 2004; Government Code Section 65863) requires the City of Blue Lake to ensure its inventory of adequate sites can accommodate its share of the regional housing need throughout the planning period. Further, Government Code Section 65863(b) prohibits local governments from lowering a residential density used in determining adequate sites under its housing element unless the locality makes certain findings.

The hard work of Messrs. Garry Rees, Assistant Planner and Robert Brown, Planning Director are greatly appreciated. If the Department can assist the City of Blue Lake in implementing the housing element, please contact Paul Mc Dougall, of our staff, at (916) 322-7995.

Mr. Wiley Buck

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In accordance with requests pursuant to the Public Records Act, the Department is forwarding copies of this letter to the persons and organizations listed below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy E. Creswell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy E. Creswell  
Deputy Director

cc: Robert Brown, Planning Director, City of Blue Lake  
Garry Rees, Assistant Planner, City of Blue Lake  
Richard Platz, City Attorney, Humboldt County Association of Governments  
Mark Stivers, Senate Committee on Housing & Community Development  
Suzanne Ambrose, Supervising Deputy Attorney General, AG's Office  
Terry Roberts, Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
Nick Cammarota, California Building Industry Association  
Marcia Salkin, California Association of Realtors  
Marc Brown, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation  
Rob Weiner, California Coalition for Rural Housing  
John Douglas, AICP, Civic Solutions  
Deanna Kitamura, Western Center on Law and Poverty  
S. Lynn Martinez, Western Center on Law and Poverty  
Alexander Abbe, Law Firm of Richards, Watson & Gershon  
Michael G. Colantuono, Colantuono, Levin & Rozell, APC  
Ilene J. Jacobs, California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.  
Richard Marcantonio, Public Advocates